

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

Media Office

Democratic Caucus

John Schorg, Director

Statehouse, Room 157

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

1-800-382-9842 or 1-317-232-9621

Fax Number: 1-317-232-9792

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STATE REP. TINY ADAMS DIES AFTER STROKE; LONG-TIME COMMUNITY ACTIVIST HAILED

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. R. Tiny Adams of Muncie, 60, who has served as 34th District representative in the Indiana House since 1996, died today in a Muncie hospital from complications due to a stroke.

"The people of Indiana have lost one of their greatest champions today," said House Democrat Leader B. Patrick Bauer from South Bend. "Tiny Adams made it his life's work to help those who were less fortunate. When he wasn't at the Statehouse speaking out for bills that improved their lives, he was working in Muncie to make sure that kids had toys at Christmas and people had coats to protect them against the cold. He would not rest until he made sure that others' lives were made a little easier."

Well before coming to the Indiana House, Adams made his mark as an activist in Delaware County. He had worked as a community service liaison for the AFL-CIO, been involved in Toys for Tots and Coats Against the Cold campaigns, and served on boards with the United Way, the Children's Museum and the American Red Cross.

Bauer also noted that Adams was a staunch advocate for the working men and women of Indiana. A former member of the Muncie Fire Department, he was a past president of that group and the local AFL-CIO/CLC, and a vice president of East-Central Indiana Solidarity.

"Tiny lived by the idea of fairness," Bauer said. "Every session, you could count on Tiny supporting efforts to guarantee collective bargaining rights for police and firefighters or put students or faculty on university boards of trustees. In all of these cases, his philosophy was simple: everyone deserves a voice in making the decisions that impact the lives of a community, not just a select few."

As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Adams played a leading role in securing state support for Ball State University and bringing back funding for local community projects.

"All of these accomplishments will be remembered by the people Tiny served in Muncie and Delaware County, but there are just as many who will look back on Tiny's life and recall that he was the lawmaker who toughened the penalties against those who were cruel to animals, as well as the legislator who authored the law that increased the penalties against people who tried to burn down churches and other houses of worship," Bauer said.

"These were the causes of a man who could not rest if there was someone out there who needed a helping hand," Bauer stated. "His selfless devotion to others was an inspiration to us all. Tiny has been taken from us far too soon, but the size of his heart will live in our memories for years to come."

Adams is survived by his wife Shawn and five children: Mark, Derek, Michelle, Denae and Heather.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

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This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H34